AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A method for detecting whether an image of a characteristic portion exists in an image to be processed, <u>includes</u> ~~comprising:~~ sequentially cutting images of a required size from the image to be processed; and comparing the cut images with verification data corresponding to the image of the characteristic portion.<u> A</u> [[, wherein a]] limitation is imposed on a size range of the image of the characteristic portion with reference to the size of the image to be processed, based on information about a distance between a subject and a location of the subject, obtained when the image to be processed has been photographed, thereby limiting the size of the cut images to be compared with the verification data.